SERI-OUSLY.
IIJIMA-SAN, YOU KNOW EVERYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH.
YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT HISTORY, TOO.
I JUST LIKE WARRING STATES ERA GENERALS.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOW YOU AROUND, BUT INSTEAD YOU SHOWED ME.
ALL ABOUT CASTLES AND CONQUERING THE COUNTRY...
I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE WARRING STATES ERA BEFORE,
BUT NOW I'M *REALLY* INTERESTED!

COUNTRY
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
IT'S JUST LIKE THE WARRING STATES ERA.
THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF CONQUERING THEIR OWN COUNTRY RIGHT NOW.
THEY CAN HEAR US.
A BATTLE FOR ROMANTIC CONQUEST?
I DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
MAYUMI-SAN'S TOO BEAUTIFUL.
SHE'S HELPING HER RIVAL...
NO FEAR! A SNEAK ATTACK!
SINCE SHE HAS SO MUCH ROMANTIC EXPERIENCE, I WISH I COULD BE MORE LIKE HER.
BUT I'M TOO AWKWARD... I COULD NEVER BE THE HISTORICAL GENERAL MAYUMI-SAN IS.

I HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN FROM THE OPINIONS OF SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY EVER SPENT TIME IN CHEAP ONE-NIGHT CASTLES.
RETURNING FIRE 穴戦
攻戦 ENGAGING ENEMY
YOU HAVE THE NECESSARY CONSTRUCTION SKILLS. AWKWARD? YOU'RE TOO MODEST,
LITERALLY.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BECOME A GENERAL, YOU CAN STILL BUILD A CASTLE.
I DON'T MIND CARNIVOROUS WOMEN!
PEOPLE WHO OVERFLOW WITH ENERGY OPEN CLOSED DOORS AROUND THEM.
IT'S POWERFUL AND FANTASTIC!
PFFFT
ブーッ
HEY!
NO, WAIT...
I'M NOT A CARNIVORE GENERAL!
YOU TRULY ARE ATTRACTIVE.
AND MAYUMI-SAN,
ONCE YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP,
YOU GIVE THAT PERSON EVERYTHING YOU HAVE.

N-NO, I'M NOT.
WHO IS THIS GUY?
WE'VE NEVER MET BEFORE, BUT HE UNDERSTANDS ME.
WELL...
I GUESS I DO TEND TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN FOR MY PARTNERS.
IF MY BOYFRIEND WANTED ME TO, I'D HAPPILY BURN ALL THE ANTHOLOGIES I COULD FIND.
SMILE
BURN?!
EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING FROM THEIR PAST THAT THEY'D LIKE TO ERASE.
OH, RIGHT.
ANTHOLOGIES CAN BE EMBARRASSING TO LOOK BACK ON NOW.
BUT THE CARELESSNESS OF YOUTH,
AND CONFUSED INABILITY TO PRESENT OR HIDE ONESELF...

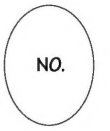
EVEN IF IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE RUNNING AWAY,
I'D NEVER WANT TO ERASE IT.
THAT'S ALL PART OF THE "HISTORY" THAT MADE ME WHO I AM TODAY.
SOME PARTS OF MY PERSONALITY HAVE GOTTEN STRONGER AS AN ADULT.
BESIDES, I HAVEN'T CHANGED MUCH.
SO HE DOESN'T WANT TO ERASE IT.
OH, I SEE...
THE EROTIC NOVEL ABOUT THE TEST TUBE...
LIKE LEGO BLOCKS?
WHAT?

...
HEY, SAYAKA.
LET'S TALK.
YOINK
!?
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
DRAG
WAIT.
SHEESH.
WHAT, MAYUMI-SAN?

LET ME HAVE THIS ONE.
LIS-TEN...
YOU'RE NOT THAT SERIOUS ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?

WHAT?
DO YOU ACTUALLY FEEL SOME-THING FOR HIM?
YOU NEVER ASK ME FOR FAVORS.
THIS IS UNUSUAL.

A LOT HAS HAPPENED LATELY.
EVEN I'VE MANAGED TO LEARN SOMETHING.


NO.

NOT THE BEST?
...MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE BEST.
MY PER-SPECTIVE ON LOVE AND MY CHOICES WHEN IT COMES TO MEN...
OF COURSE, HE'S NOT YOUR TYPE.

THIS IS DIFFERENT FOR ME.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT NOT BE TERRIBLE TO START A RELATIONSHIP...
...LIKE THIS.
HONESTLY, HE'S NOT MY TYPE, AND I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING.
BUT HE'S AN ADULT.
HE'S IN A GOOD POSITION.
HE SEEMS LIKE HE'D ACCEPT MY PAST, TOO.
THAT'S PROBABLY MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE.
HE'S TOTALLY INFATUATED WITH ME.
AND HE'S IN A GOOD POSITION.
YOU SAID THAT TWICE.
WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR.
ALL I WANT IS TO EXPAND MY NETWORK.
DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
JUST THINKING THAT MAY BE A STEP FORWARD FOR YOU.
WHETHER OR NOT IT'LL GO WELL IS ANOTHER MATTER.

I HAVE A FEELING IT'S TOO LATE.
IN ANY CASE, I'M GOING TO KEEP THINGS CLEAN.
STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
IS MAYUMI-SAN
ACTUALLY WAVERING?
WHERE DID THEY GO?
CHUCKLE
ANY-WAY...
WHAT DID SHIRO-SAN TELL HIM?
DOES THAT INCLUDE US?
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO COME TODAY.
REALLY.
YOU WERE RIGHT, SHIRO-SENSEI.
THE RESI-DENTS OF THE KAWAI COMPLEX ARE UNIQUE AND INTER-ESTING.

I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO THE KAWAI COMPLEX.
?
GRATE-FUL?
SLIP
ズレ
RUSTLE
サッ
AH!
TEXT: THE CORRECT WAY TO EXPERIENCE REGRET
THE BINDING...
IT'S COMING APART.
IT FELL WEIRDLY...
IT'S IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE.
MAYBE I'LL BUY THAT BOOK NEXT.
YOU SHOULD PUT THAT AWAY SINCE IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU.
IT'S FINE. I'LL—
BUT...
I'LL PROBABLY READ IT A BUNCH OF TIMES.

THEN...
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME TO BUY IT.
BLUSH
THEIR YOUTH.
THEY'RE USING IT AS PART OF THEIR YOUTH.
IT IS THAT BOOK!
I'M GRATEFUL YOU'VE READ ONE OF OUR BOOKS SO MUCH.
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE CORRECT WAY TO EXPERIENCE REGRET WHEN I SAW IT EARLIER.
SHIRO-SENSEI, YOU MUST BE HAPPY, TOO,
WITH SUCH PASSIONATE FANS SO CLOSE TO YOU.
WHAT?
WHY WOULD SHIRO-SAN BE HAPPY?
WHAT?
YOU'RE SO PERSISTENT.
YOU'D BETTER NOT GET IN MY WAY.

THANKS FOR WAITING.
THE AUTHOR OF THAT BOOK...
...IS SHIRO-SENSEI.

WHA—
WHAAAT ?!!
GASP
TOO LATE.
OH, PLEASE. IIJIMA-SAN, I MADE A WEIRD NOISE
BECAUSE OF YOUR RIDICULOUS OUTBURST.
SLAP
?!
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THAT. THIS GIRL SERIOUSLY LOVES THAT BOOK.
JOKES LIKE THAT WILL PISS HER OFF AND MAKE HER HIT YOU WITH THE SPINE.
IT'S NOT A JOKE!
SHIRO-SENSEI WROTE THAT BOOK.
EX-CUSE ME.
THE AUTHOR OF THIS BOOK ISN'T "SHIRO."
IT'S JO SHIZURU-SENSEI.

WHA
A
A
AT?!!
RIGHT.
THAT'S THE PEN NAME OF
SHIROSAKI SHIZURU-SENSEI.
THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ABOUT!
THAT EROTIC STORY YOU PUBLISHED IN THE ANTHOLOGY IS THAT BOOK? RIT-CHAN'S BOOK?
WHAT? NO, WAIT... WHAT? A NOVEL?
AFTER ALL, SHIRO-SAN'S JUST SHIRO-SAN.
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE RELATED TO THE LANDLADY, YOU HAD ABSO-LUTELY NO INTEREST IN ME.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT SHIRO-SAN'S FULL NAME WAS.
I KNEW IT.
YOU HAD HIM MIXED UP WITH THAT IIJIMA-KUN.
I KNEW SOME-THING SEEMED OFF!
OH, RIGHT!
ANTHOL-OGY?
??

IT'S A MIRACLE THAT YOU KNOW TWO PERVERTED IIJIMAS!
IT'S NOT THAT UNUSUAL A NAME.
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME PER-VERTED?
THIS IIJIMA-KUN AND MY CLASSMATE "IIJIMA-KUN" ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
WHAT?
HE'S NOT THE ONE FROM THE FOUR GREAT PER-VERTED CIVILIZA-TIONS?!
HE'S OLDER THAN ME.
IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE WAS SOME CONFUSION.
ALLOW ME TO REINTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M JO SHIZURU-SENSEI'S EDITOR, IIJIMA.
HEY, SHIRO!
YOU LIAR!
QUIT TRYING TO TRICK ME!
WHAT?
I'M NOT LYING.
BUT...
MAYUMI-SAN, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF.

I WOULDN'T DARE...
...LIE TO YOU.
IF YOU WANT ME TO BELIEVE YOU, PROVE IT!
SHUT UP! THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
EVERY-THING I REFUSE TO ACKNOWL-EDGE IS A LIE!

AREN'T I ENOUGH PROOF?
I WORK AT A PUB-LISHING COMPANY...
RE-JECTED!
I COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT HIS PREVIOUS BOOKS.
YOU COULD MAKE THAT UP AFTER READING THE FINISHED WORK!
RE-JECTED!
OH.
SINCE IT WAS RECENT, MAYBE THAT WOULD WORK.

IT'S A FULL STATEMENT OF HIS ROYALTY PAYMENTS.
HIS PASSBOOK SHOWS THAT THEY WERE DEPOSITED.
NO WAY. IT'S REAL?
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHERE SHIRO-SAN GOT HIS RENT MONEY.

I ONLY GET A TRICKLE OF INCOME FROM REPRINTS BY THE TIME I'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT.
I'VE BEEN USING MY SAVINGS FROM THE SALES OF THE FIRST EDITION.
I'M NOT THAT SUCCESSFUL.
YOU'VE BEEN LIVING OFF ROYALTIES?!
THAT'S AMAZING!
SORRY IT'S NOT DOING BETTER.

HE'S A GREAT TENANT WHO'S NEVER BEEN LATE WITH HIS RENT.
GIGGLE
FOR EROTIC MATERIAL, I RECYCLE MY FRIEND'S STORIES.
I DON'T USE MUCH MONEY.
ALL I BUY ARE ROPE AND TISSUES.
AND RENT AT THE KAWAI COMPLEX IS CHEAP, SINCE IT INCLUDES ELECTRICITY, GAS, AND MEALS.
OF COURSE. I'M THE LANDLADY.
SUMIKO-SAN, YOU KNEW?
WE NEVER WENT OUT OF OUR WAY TO TELL YOU, BUT WE WEREN'T HIDING IT.

GASP!
SENPAI, ARE YOU OKAY?
WE'VE DISCUSSED SHIRO-KUN'S "NOVEL" BEFORE.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE WAS ACTUALLY AN AUTHOR,
MUCH LESS THE AUTHOR OF SENPAI'S FAVORITE BOOK.
...
I...
I THINK WORKS EXIST IN A DIFFERENT DIMENSION FROM THEIR CREATORS THE MOMENT THEY'RE CREATED.
A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK IT NEGATIVELY AFFECTS THE WORK IF THE AUTHOR OR ARTIST HAS PERSONALITY ISSUES,
OR CAUSES SOME KIND OF TROUBLE.
BUT I FIND THAT STRANGE.
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO READ ANYTHING IF I CARED ABOUT THEIR PERSONALITIES.
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT.

TREMBLE
BUT I REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW THOSE PEOPLE FEEL RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S SUFFERED SERIOUS DAMAGE.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

SENPAI, HANG IN THERE!
SOMEONE ELSE HAS SUFFERED...
...SERIOUS DAMAGE.
IT'S OKAY! PROBABLY!